

was the Crops Club President and in 1996 received the Crops Club's Distinguished Agriculturist Award. Additionally, he served two terms on the California Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Board #8. He is a past board member of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association and a past board member of the California Agricultural Education Foundation.

In his various leadership roles, Earl has worked closely with California Governor Gray Davis, and other Democrat and Republican legislators, as well as his colleagues in the agriculture community to pass legislation to assist farmers and agribusinesses in California. Additionally, Earl has been a champion for air pollution and water quality issues facing the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Without a doubt, Earl has been a key player in California's agriculture industry for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Earl P. Williams for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 630, "yea," on rollcall No. 631, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent yesterday due to several flight cancellations and delays due to severe weather. As a result, I missed two votes on Tuesday, December 10, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 630 and 631.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN
MARCUS PATE ON ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jordan Marcus Pate of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jordan Pate has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jordan has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jordan will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jordan's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jordan Marcus Pate on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,234,005,998,603.93. We've added \$6,607,128,949,690.85 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMENDING VIRAJ PURI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Viraj Puri, a 13-year-old student at Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, Virginia.

Viraj is interested in technology, music, advocacy, and writes a blog about mobile devices. He is also a certified DJ (DJ Droid) and built his own powerful computer which he uses for his DJ performances. Viraj performs in front of kids, adults and seniors.

As an Indian American teenager, Viraj saw the effects of bullying on his older brother and decided to blend advocacy and technology. He built a website which can be accessed at www.bullyvention.com.

Viraj's website calls for teenagers to Write on Washington, to make their voices roar by

contacting their lawmakers and urging them to join the campaign to stop bullying now. Viraj believes that kids who are bullied need to know they are powerful enough to reach out to those in position to make a difference.

Bullyvention is the first site to team up with the U.S. House of Representatives' Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus (CABC). Viraj's website trends from Capitol Hill where he interviews Members of Congress who have a story to share or advice to give victims of bullying.

In support of his vision that the "pen is mightier than the sword," Viraj has been successful in getting Members of Congress involved in a campaign he calls Raise Your Pen. Former Speaker and now Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives NANCY PELOSI has raised her pen to stop bullying now. President Barack Obama also sent a message of praise and a note of encouragement in response to a hand-written letter Viraj sent to him.

I am pleased that Viraj is also interviewing and posting photos of State Attorneys General, School Superintendents, and others who want to join the campaign. He is creating an online interactive map that highlights areas of concern by searching through keywords in social media like Facebook, Instagram, etc., and by school district, state, and county. It is the only interactive map on this subject.

I commend Viraj for taking a public stand against bullying and for putting his technology skills to use in a way that draws all of us together. His work, especially with Members of Congress, on behalf of teens across America is the first of its kind. And so, for historical purposes, I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to recognize Viraj for his advocacy efforts. Viraj is a remarkable young man with a very bright future. I am proud to know him, and I extend to him and his family my kindest regards and best wishes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, the weather delayed my arrival to Washington DC for the afternoon votes, and I missed rollcall No. 631, or H.R. 1402. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1402.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF IRA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeff Ira for his 16 years of outstanding service on the Redwood City City Council, two terms as mayor. To say that Jeff's enthusiasm and expertise will be missed by his colleagues and all residents would be the understatement of the decade. Jeff has demonstrated superb leadership in setting Redwood City on a stable financial path and in making it a better place to live. I am proud to call Jeff a colleague and